

### Proceedings of the Club.

§ 8. HABITS AND FORMS OF CALOPTENUS SPRETUS. MR. SCUDDER offered some remarks on Mr. Riley's account of *Caloptenus spretus* in his recent Annual Report [see Bibl. Rec., No. 311]. The speaker doubted whether these insects took flight from the heart of the Rocky Mts. to the localities in which they were destructive, passing over the wide expanse of arid plains which intervene, because there has been no record of their occurrence in swarms in these plains, and there is sufficient ground for the supposition that they may have developed in the immediate vicinity of the regions which they devastate. It is well known that among other insects there are years in which individuals are suddenly very abundant, and intervening series of years in which few are to be found. It is also known that a few of these locusts can be found in Kansas and Missouri, and in fact from Texas to Manitoba every year, so it seems hardly necessary to look so far for the derivation of the destructive swarms. Moreover, the circumstance, mentioned by Mr. Riley, that the locusts get tired after repeated flights, is an additional argument against the supposition that they came from a great distance, for the rate at which their strength diminished seemed out of all proportion to the activity of the insects at the time of their first ravages.

Mr. Scudder also doubted the specific and perhaps even the varietal rights of *C. Atlansis*, described by Mr. Riley from the White Mts., for specimens of *C. spretus* have been found in different eastern localities, and, like many other insects of wide latitudinal distribution, have shorter wings than the western forms. Mr. Riley gives no characters of importance to distinguish *C. Atlansis* from *C. spretus*.

Some conversation ensued, upon the migrations of locusts in Europe and Asia, and it was remarked that in those countries the locusts come from the east westward, while in our territories the migrations are toward the east. This was explained to be probably on account of the direction of the wind, which in our western territories is for much the greater part of the year from the west.

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